

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

Congratulations Kevin and Terri!



What can we say but congratulations to the Hibbs family, mother Terri, KI4NCL, father Kevin, KG4TEI, and brother Charlie on the birth of the newest family member Katherine Marie on Wednesday, August 30th!

From the President

It wasn't real DX but the Tennessee QSO party last weekend made me and other operators in the Volunteer State virtual DX last weekend. With family in town I'd originally planned a few hours of giving out Lincoln County but the pile-ups on 40m reminiscent of the ARRL Centennial proved too much fun to walk away from the radio. Conditions were great on 40m for domestic work, 80m had a lot of noise, and 20m seemed to suffer from deep QSB. The 3830 comments painted the same picture by several ops.

The 2017 Huntsville Hamfest is in the history books and word is it was another great success. Likewise, so was the DX Banquet. The room was FULL. All told, we contracted for 96 dinners, sold 91 tickets, provided 5 complimentary tickets for manufacturer reps and presenters, and had 5 no-shows. The meal was once again wonderful. Our speaker Bob Allphin K4UEE, presented an engaging and enjoyable prequel to the upcoming Bouvet expedition.

There's so much to recount about the fantastic weekend and here are some of my personal highlights.

Meeting Tim Duffy K3LR at the airport at noon Friday and taking him to lunch at Edo's Japanese

Restaurant. This was Tim's first visit to Huntsville so I drove him through Research Park to give him an idea of the high-tech nature of the business community. Then to the US Space & Rocket Center where we double parked in front of the SR-71 Blackbird long enough to snap a photo of Tim with the nose of the plane over his shoulder. We turned around for another shot of him & the Saturn V. He told me later that within hours those photos were shared internationally.

I wanted Tim to experience our move-in process so we drove into the VBC hall and parked just like the vendors & flea market folks. To say Tim was impressed with the process and the facility would be an understatement. Tim shared a lot more information that day about his travels and experiences at other hamfests.

We checked into the Embassy Suites mid-afternoon and I found myself in line with K5KG George Wagner – a founding member of NADXC and in town as the Yaesu rep. It just so happened I was looking for this TBD Yaesu rep to attend our Banquet as they were our main door prize sponsor.

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From the President

(cont'd from p. 1)

It was a good decision to stay at the Embassy – lots of hams there and no need to commute to and from home. Had breakfast with the Dayton Hamvention contingent.

Saturday was a blur of activity and I had to excuse myself to the hotel room to prepare my dinner text and Bob's intro. I also had the task of figuring out how to sequence the 33 door prizes Steve AG4W and John N5DF managed to amass in a few hours. Talk about some good stuff! If I'd had more time to think about the details I would have moved that Diamond Screwdriver way up the

list. I think it retailed for over \$300.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped our Banquet run smoothly – Kelley W4VPZ & Anita KD2KAG checking in guests, Mick N8AU for taking photos, Kevin KG4TEI and Matt KI4AJZ for the A/V equipment, John N5DF and Steve AG4W for the impressive door prize collection, and to Steve again for helping with the drawing order.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that our picnic is coming up in about a week. We've had to change the day from Saturday to Sunday Sept 17. Location is Kelley W4VPZ's and Derek John's home

at 3117 Wildwood Dr, Huntsville 35801. We'll start the gathering anytime after 10 AM with putting wires in trees and building a few stations while Derek grills something good. Bring a covered dish to share, some drinks, and try to remember a folding chair or two. The Club will supply all the plates & utensils. Kelley will be listening on the W4QB repeater if you need directions. The approximate location is near the Governor's Drive end of Monte Sano Blvd.

73,
Mark N4BCD
North Alabama DX Club - President

August, 2017 Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ-NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

16 (17 by the end of the meeting) members and 3 guests were in attendance at the Golden Corral

The sign-in sheet DX worked reports were reviewed:

Rob KB5EZ TI3, ZF1, VE,
& XE all on 6m FT8

Announcements

There is one DX Club Hamfest Banquet ticket available. The other 95 have been sold.

Mark N4BCD asked if anyone had been on the air this month. Tim AB4B reported that the conditions had been a little better, and that the North American QSO Party was okay: 10m-15m were so-so, 20m was good, 40m was so-so, and 80m was good. Rob KB5EZ reported that 20m was busy, but 10m-15m were not great.

The K4BFT Field Day video by Dick W1TV was mentioned. Dick did an outstanding job and the video will be linked to the HARC web site soon (www.harc.net).

The North Alabama DX Club will have a table for checking DX cards at the Hamfest, and Mark N4BCD is looking for volunteers to help. A sign up sheet was passed around.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance
\$ 4,708.73

Debits

Cash for Ticket Sales	-\$	61.75
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Credits

Deposit	\$	152.00
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Deposit (PayPal)	\$	1,666.83
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Ending Balance	\$	6,469.71
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Membership Applications

Craig Reinhart KD4IYD submitted his DX Club membership application, and was swiftly voted in by all members present. Welcome, Craig!

Old Business

None

New Business

Tim AB4B announced that the Alabama Contest Group is holding a fundraiser for the WRTC (World Radio Team Championship) in Germany next year (July 12-16, 2018). The ACG is sponsoring an operating tent for a team and their fundraising goal is 1,000 Euros (\$1,170-ish, depending on when you check the exchange rate). The competition is based on equal gear, same power of 100W, from the same location. A presentation of the sponsorship "check" will be made to Tim Duffy of DX Engineering at the Huntsville Hamfest.

Plans for the 2017 Solar Eclipse viewings were discussed among the members and visitors present. The path of totality is passing through Tennessee – Nashville to the Athens area, not far from Huntsville.

Program

An informal round table of comments by NADXCers involved with the Huntsville Hamfest was the program for the evening.



DX Contests for September

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest (SSB) 80-10M

Sept 9, 0000Z to Sept 10, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See page 84, Sept. QST and

www.darc.de/referate

Russian cup Digital Contest (DIG), 80 - 10M

Sept 9, 1500Z to Sept 10, 0959Z

Exchange: Serial # plus 4-character grid square

See page 84, Sept QST and

www.qrz.ru/contest/detail

Scandinavian Activity Contest, (CW), 80 - 10M

Sept. 16, 1200Z to Sept, 17 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial #

See page 84, Sept. QST and

www.sactest.net/blog/rules

All Africa International DX Contest, (CW, SSB, Dig.), 160 - 10M

Sept. 16, 1200Z to Sept. 17, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial #

See page 84, Sept. QST and

www.sarl.org.za

CQ WW RTTY Contest, (DIG), 80 - 10M

Sept 23, 0000Z to Sept 24, 2359Z

Exchange: RST, State/Province, and CQ zone; DX sends RST and CQ zone

See page 84, Sept. QST and

www.cqwwrtty.com

OTHERS:

Russian WW Multimode Contest, CW/SSB/DIG,

1200Z, Sept. 30 to 1159Z, Oct. 1

UK/EI DX Contest, SSB,

1200Z, Sept. 30 to 1200Z, Oct. 1

Oceania DX Contest, SSB

0800Z, Oct. 7 to 0800Z, Oct. 8

Oceania DX Contest, CW,

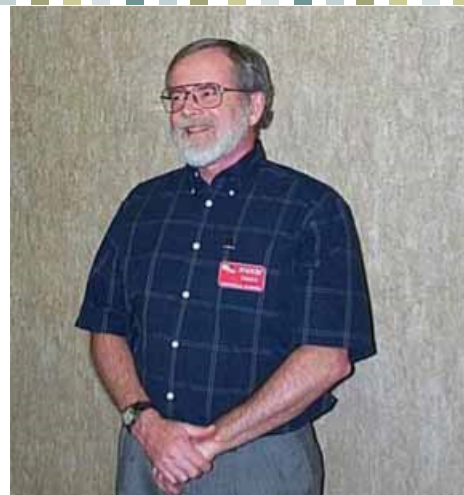
0800Z, Oct. 14 to 0800Z, Oct. 15

Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB,

1200Z Oct. 14 to 1200Z Oct. 15

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals. Beware.

Chuck, N4NM



Hamfest Banquet Final Financial Report

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ-NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

2017

2016

	2017	2016
Income		
Direct/Mail Ticket Sales	\$646.00	\$1,064.00
Sales via PayPal	\$2,718.02	\$1,839.28
Total Income	\$3,364.02	\$2,903.28
Expenses		
Served meal cost	\$(2,432.74)	\$(2,052.26)
Room / facility rental	\$(226.00)	\$(226.00)
Speaker's hotel room	\$(147.90)	\$(282.24)
Club-sponsored door prizes		
FTdx1200	\$(300.00)	\$(200.00)
Vibroplex key	\$(101.90)	\$(149.27)
DX Clock/Bag char (2016)		
Yamaha headset (2017)	\$(57.85)	\$(59.99)
Total Expenses	\$(3,266.39)	\$(2,969.76)
Net (profit / loss)	\$97.63	\$(66.48)

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	John Stensby, N5DF
Secretary/	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

September Program—Bicycle Mobile

By M. D. Smith, WA4DXP

"All mobile operations are equal, but some mobile operations are more equal than others" might well refer to bicycle mobile. But let's not put words in the mouth of our own honest-to-goodness bike mobile op M.D.—he will be happy to tell us first hand, and answer questions! Get to the Golden Corral around 6:00 pm for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and we hope around 7:30 to hear M.D.'s story. See you there!



2017 NADXC Banquet Pictures



Vendors (thanks for those great prizes!) and Presenter's table



Some Conklins conspiring to win door prizes. As we see below, Jason, N2NLY was wildly successful, winning the grand prize, an FTdx1200.



We barely fit into the available space.



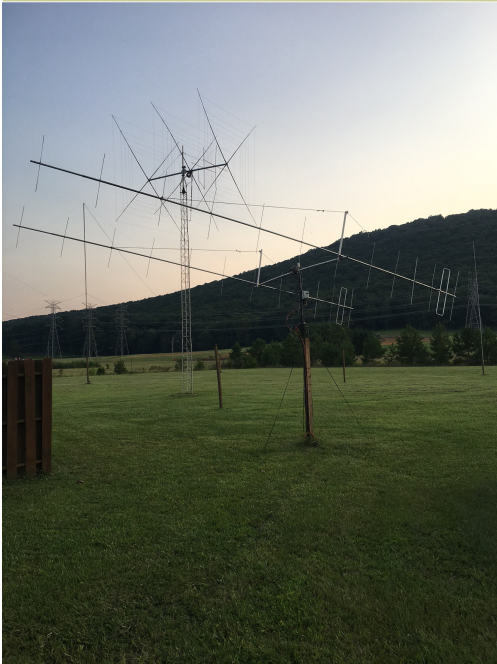
Cont'd on p. 6

2017 NADXC Banquet Prize List

<u>Reverse Sort</u>	2017 NADXC Banquet Door Prizes	Sponsored by:	Won by:
33	DVD	All Laptops	KD2KAG
32	Flashlight	Batteries America	N4NLY
31	Embroidered Cap	The Signman of Baton Rouge	K5KG
30	Wire Antenna Book	ARRL	AJ6T
29	Soldering Torch	Hamworld	W5VY
28	Cap	K9ID	N4EDT
27	LED Badge	Mr Gadgets	N5DF
26	Weatherproofing Kit	R & L Electronics	W4BRE
25	Elecraft cap	Elecraft	KD2KAG
24	Soldering Torch	Hamworld	AI4QR
23	DXEngineering Chair in a Bag	NADXC	KD4IYD
22	MFJ-105D 24 Hr Wall Clock	NADXC	KD2JSW
21	MFJ-4432 (digital led voltmeter)	MFJ	N4??
20	MFJ-1811 (HT antenna)	MFJ	W4KTX
19	MFJ-108B (24/12 Hour LCD Clock)	MFJ	??
18	The Wirebook & 50' RG-8	The Wireman	N4NM
17	\$50 Gift Certificate	N3ZN Keys	KE5M
16	5V 7W Solar Panel	Be Ready Solar	W4ASA
15	2 Year Subscription	CQ Magazine	WA4HR
14	Soldering Iron, Stand, Magnifying Glass & Solder	Tower Electronics	N5DF XYL
13	2m whip antenna with gain	TEDI	NF4F
12	Gift card for Callsign Plaque	Gifts for Hams	K8KI
11	Backpack Antenna	TN0Z	N8AB
10	Soldering Torch	Hamworld	W4LA
9	Gift certificate \$100 to \$500 off	Flex Radio	K5YG
8	EZ4 DC Power Panel	Ham Source	N4CNZ
7	Baofeng Dual Band HT	JMR	WA4DXP
6	Screwdriver Antenna	Diamond Antennas	N4WGY
5	\$100 Bill	Expert Amps (Bob & Elva)	KB0LS
4	\$100 Gift Certificate	DXEngineering	W2HGN?
3	\$100 Gift Certificate	DXEngineering	K7MX
2	Vibroplex Code Warrior key & non-slip pad	NADXC	KN4G
1	Grand Prize - Yaesu FTdx1200.	Yaesu & Gigaparts & NADXC	N2NLY

The NADXC thanks all prize sponsors, and especially recognizes Yaesu and Gigaparts for their tremendous support of our club by sponsoring the grand prize.

AG4W Shrinks EME Path Loss



Steve Werner, AG4W is busy growing aluminum. Recent additions to the EME array, now two 13-element yagis on 26 foot booms, increases gain by another 0.9 dB. Unfortunately no human is present in the picture to provide perspective, but note how the electrical transmission towers barely in the background are dwarfed by this impressive set of antennas.

World RadioSport Team Championship (WRTC)

By Rob Suggs, KB5EZ

At the August NADXC meeting Tim AB4B discussed the next WRTC coming in July 2018. This "Olympics of Ham Radio" occurs every 4 years during the IARU HF World Championship. You can get a great glimpse into the most recent event in 2014 through 2 different media: a book and a video. The book is "Contact Sport" by J.K. George N3BB, available in print or e-version. George was embedded with one of the teams in the wilds of Massachusetts and speaks from the viewpoint of an experienced contester and a driver for one of the teams. He gives interesting backgrounds on the competitors on a number of the teams and captures the drama, fatigue, and joy of the contest. His description of listening in on one of the 40m CW pileups and hearing the various tones as "colors" was delightful even to a marginal CW op like me. The drama of the score tallying and the single multiplier and a couple of mis-logged exchanges which made the difference between the third place podium position and a fourth place finish is an exciting read. If you worked that particular contest you probably have some of those 1x1 calls in your log-book. It is cool to think that by making a contact with those teams you actually helped them in their quest, kind of like providing a cup of water to a marathon runner.

If you prefer watching a video of the 2014 event check the one by James Brooks 9V1YC at <https://vimeo.com/119947598>. This professionally made documentary is beautifully recorded and expertly edited. Brooks has a number of DXpedition videos on Vimeo and all are a pleasure to watch. It would be nice if all DXpedition videos had the same production quality.

Both of these are meant for non-hams and are a little short on technical details on the various stations. You can find full details on the teams and their hardware at <http://www.wrtc2014.org/>. The antennas and power systems were provided by the WRTC organizers but the individual teams had to supply their own radios and computers. The tent-based, 100 watt limit, 24 hour, Field Day style of operating is familiar to many of us. The list of radios and logging software is especially interesting and is available at <http://www.wrtc2014.org/radios-and-software-used/>.

Read the book and/or watch the video. And be sure to jump in and work the gang operating from Germany next July.

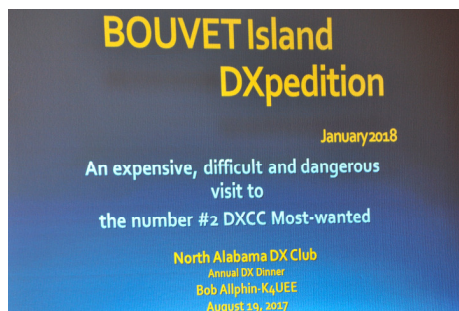
2017 NADXC Banquet Pictures

(cont'd from p. 4)

Speaker Bob Allphin K4UEE regales us with standard-issue Bouvet attire.



Probably not a "vacation-style" DXpedition.



This is not the Bouvet mess tent.

